ward _ areas..... *(Interruptions)..*
So we will have to provide links which which are national highway and thereforee ,there are claims varfcui States, and that isbut natural.'; But; due to constraint,of resources we will have to see which one can be picked up on a priority basis.

Steps to check forged passports:

NO.43 SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the cases detected during the first four months of the current year egarding forged passports; and

(b) what steps are propo:-ed to be taken by Government to check the recurrence of forged passports especially in view of the alarming growth of terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) Information is being collected.

(b) It has been decided to introduce a More Secured Passport (MSP) using heat activated security film which will make forging of passports very difficult and where attempted easily detectable. Officials concerned are briefed from time to time about nature of forgeries being committed on passports.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, regarding these passports, there are two aspects of the matter. With regard to the first one, I am really disappointed that Government does not have figures of cases for the last four months, "Information is being collected," I want to ask my first supplementary on that, I want to know from the honourable Minister, in reply to my first supplementary, about this. It is welcome that some measures are taken to issue a new kind of passport which cannot be easily forged"ind/i^*,vvhich forgeries , can be easily;detecied.""The issue is, today terrorism.1s.b4 the rise the country and we find that at every place in the country there is some sort of security check where they are harassing innocent citizens. The situation is such that forged pessport holders can get through easily whereas the genuine person is not getting a passport even. Because this concerns the External Affairs Ministry, I want to know what steps are being taken to streamline the Passport Offices, because that is where the real problem is.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Sir, 1 appreciate the concern of the honourable Member. We have taken a few steps. One is that we are computerizing the whole system. We have tlso got permission to add to the staff. Because the pressure is too much, therefore, new staff is being added. We are also examining the possibility of establishing some new Passport Offices! About the forgeries that he has referred to, there is a delay because we have to get information from various investigating agencies, and that is why there is a delay ?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Please speak into the mike so that we can listen.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: *Prima facie* we have some information, but I thought that that may not serve the purpose of the honourable Member's query,.... *(Interruptions)*....

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: I don't think [be has got it, _____ *(Interruptions)."...* But whatever information be has got, he must share it with Of. It cannot happen that they do not have the last four months' figures, Either the figures are so alarming or.... *(Interruptions)....*

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: No, the honourable Member need not get excited. The *prima facie* figure we have is 221

SHRI SURESH KALMADI Then why did n't you tell us.

SHRI.L. K. GUJRAL: I did not tell you because I wanted *to* give a confirmed figure.

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SHR1 KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, my second supplementary is this: in the various Passport Office all over the country it is observed that if a citizen goes ft r a passport—a normal citizen, say, a labourer wanting to go abroad for employment -the minimum time in which he can get the passport is two *to* three months, Now, a passport does not entitle him to anything except an identification that he is an Indian citizen and, secondly, is I have seen it in the passport, in case he dies abroad, the Government of India has a responsibility of expenses for the disposal of his body, That is the only guarantee that a. passport gives, So, 1 do not understand why , for the issue of such a document, it should take three months, All that is needed to find out is whether he is an Indian citizen and if he has a ration card or a driving licence, I do not know why a passport cannot be issued just across the counter.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: I agree with my honourable friend, But the point is...

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Sir, Question No. 416 also concerns *the* same subject, We can take these two questions together.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us finish this first.

...

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Sir, tbe difficulty is, the rules up till now were prescribed this way that police verification was called for and the police normally take more time than they have stipulated. Recently I have taken a decision that the District Magistrates, SDMs and others will also nave the power to authenticate them. Once this verification comes,- then the,-burden on the "police 'will b*e*-very/'much lessened, Also, at the same time,' I had offered if Members of Parlia ment would take this responsibility, I was told that Members of Parlia ment do not have the facility to authenticate and to verify whether the apolicant was a really desirable or non-desirable person, and so they did not want to take on this responsibility. But, if my hon. friends are willing to take the responsibility, T am willing to do it.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, kindly give me protection. The desirability of a person for being issued a passport, I have not understood. Every Indian citizen is entitled to a passport, whether he is desirable or undesirable. Pre-vioulsy, MPs were allowed to certify, and the passports were issued on that basis. If the Minister allows it, it is up to the MP. If the MP is not sure, he will not certify. Please have that system again, Let the MPs certify *on* the basic of which let the passport be issued.

MP. CHAIRMAN: In some cases, I tell you, in which MPs certified the applications—MLAs are also entitled to do .o-the applicants were found to be smugglers and others. Naturally, political people want to be away from the problem. If they want, he has no objection, *(Interruptions).*

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: In that case it can be cancelled subsequently.

cannot deny passport.MR. CHAIRMAN: If the Members of Parliament take this responsibility, will youlike to consider it ?

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: They have more influence with the police than that the politicians.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Sir, MPs will rot sign passport for smugglers.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: The main point that I was trying to make is that it is not only a question o a passport-holder being a citizen of India. Of course, some difficulties in the past have arisen in India, terrorism and other things, and some tigntening took place. Now we are relaxing a great deal. I am willing to examine the possibility if my hot. friends want that Members of Parliament should be given the authority to authenticate the character of the person who is applying for it.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, one case of allegedly forged passport which the External Affairs Ministry was investigating. I know from me newspapers. I would like to know what the current position is. That is of Mr. Ajeya Singh, son of the Prime Minister. I want to know whether the External Affairs Ministry has completed its investigation into the alleged forgery of the passport of Mr. Ajeya Singh. *(Interruptions)* It is in the FIR of the St. Kitts case also. He can tell us whether it is a genuine passport or not. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI LK. GUJRAL: Mr. Subramanian Swamy is a very well informed person especially about forgeries.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: That is right. That is why I catch you on it each time *(Interruptions).*

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: I forcefully deny that tuere was any such allegation.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Was there any investigation by the External Affairs Ministry into the authenticity of bis passport or not. That is the question I asked. I did not ask whether it was denied or not.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: Sir, I seek your guidance, Do we discuss individual cases in the form of ques-tions ?

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: It is not an individual case. There was an investigation by the External Affairs Ministry, You don't have to be such a* *(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. G. SWELL: I am not a* I am talking about the rectitude of this House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He was Deputy Speaker. He knows the rules. *(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER: He should withdraw the words. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. G. SWELL: I came here on my own, entirely on my own. He is a* He could not have come to this House without the support of such people. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have told that you know all the rules. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BIJOYA GHAKRABARTY: Sir, I want to know whether* is parliamentary or not. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Sir, to get a passport for ordinary people is a very difficult process. Even if an ordinary person gets a passport, it is stamped "immigration check to be done," " have found in many cases that even the Government employees and employees in the public sector, who apply for passports and get them, they are stamped, "immigration check is required," For the

*Expurged as ordered by the Chair.

Government employees for getting the passport, what is the necessity? It creates **a** lot of difficulty. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether immigration check at all is required, or if it is required, whether the provision can be liberalised. Otherwise, after getting the passport, it is very difficult for the passport holder to avail of it.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : For the last couple of months: I have been giving attention to simplify the procedures. I think to a large extent we have done it. I can assure my friend that we are trying to make an effort to see that passports are issued within three weeks.

DR. NAGEN SAIKIA : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government can consider the issue of passport on the basis of letter of authentication or identification from the District Magistrate.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Yes, we have already agreed to it.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PA-TEL : Previously MPs were entitled to sign the passport form. I would like to know whether at that time any undesirable person had been issued a passport signed by an MP.

Secondly, the passport books are not available in Ahmedabad and other cities and because of that the issue of passport has been delayed for long. For many days it is not available. What are you doing to do for this ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : My hon. friend has said about, the non-availability of passport books. I will take immediate action.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI : There is shortage of passport books to the extent of 25,000.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I wilt take immediate action on this.

So far as the authentication by the MPs is concerned, the question is well taken and I will examine this.

मौलाना अबदुल्ला खां आजमी : सर, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि पास पोर्ट के सिलसिले में सी०आई०डी० इंक्वायरी होती है और करेक्टर सर्टिफिकेट सी०आई०डी० देती है। सर, मैंने देखा है कि पैसा लेकर करेक्टर सर्टिफिकेट दिये जाते हैं । जिन लोगों को पैसा देने में देर होती है उनको करेक्टर सर्टिफिकेट मिलने में भी देर होती है। तो क्या हमारी सरकार के पास कोई ऐसा रास्ता है जिससे जो इस तरह से पैसा लेकर करेक्टर सर्टिफिकेट दिये जाते हैं वह बंद हो। ठीक आदमी के पास अगर पैसा नहीं है तो उसे करेक्टर सर्टिफिकेट नहीं मिलेगा और बैड करेक्टर के पास अगर पसा है तो पैसे लेकर उसको करेक्टर सर्टिफिकेट मिलेगा। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि यह जो खराबी है इसको खत्म करने के लिये सरकार क्या विचार कर रही है, क्या सोच रही है ?

श्री इन्द्रकुमार गुजराल : : महोदय, हर एक पासपोर्ट आफिस के साथ एक पब्लिक मैन की एडवायजरी कमेटी अटैच करने जा रहे हैं ताकि लोगों को जो शिकायतें हों, उन्हें यह एडवायजरी कमेटी एडवाइस कर सके । दूसरी बात जो हम करने जा रहे हैं वह यह है । जहां तक पुलिस का सवाल है पुलिस से यह नहीं पूछा जाता है कि करेक्टर क्या है। उनसे यह पूछा जाता है कि कोई क्रिमिनल रिकार्ड है कि नहीं । इसलिये करेक्टर का सवाल नहीं है, क्रिमिनल रिकार्ड का सवाल है ।